

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Paper for Information:

FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update – December 2015 meeting

This paper provides Members with an update on the work of the Food Standards Agency's Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) and other items of general interest.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (**ACAF**)
<http://acaf.food.gov.uk/>

ACAF met in Aviation House, London on 28 October 2015 and the agenda for the meeting included:

- **Review of Scientific Advisory Committees**

Susan Pryde, the lead reviewer for the SACs Review provided an outline of the process and timeframes for the review that was formally launched in September 2015.

- **Soy production sustainability – presentation and discussion paper by Ricardo Manoel Arioli Silva**

Ricardo Manoel Aroli Silva (Aprosoja) provided the Committee with a presentation on the sustainable production of soy and described the environmental and social management program for Brazilian soybeans.

- **Presentation and discussion paper by Geoff Brown and Ian Givens - Maximum Permitted Levels of Nutritional Feed Additives – relationship to human dietary intake**

Committee Members Geoff Brown and Ian Givens gave a presentation outlining the issue of maximum permitted levels of feed additives, the supplementation of animal diets, and links to animal and human nutrition.

- **Antimicrobial resistance - Presentation on the work of JIACRA**

Members received a presentation from John Threlfall on the Joint Interagency Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA) final report, (published on 30 January 2015). This was the first integrated report by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) analysing

possible relationships between the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in humans and food-producing animals.

- **Food Standards Scotland**

Dr Susan Pryde from Food Standards Scotland (FSS) provided an introduction to FSS which has now taken over the functions previously carried out by FSA Scotland, but with a broader remit in relation to food safety, diet and nutrition.

- **Update on the Review of the Report on On-farm feeding practices**

Angela Booth (ACAF Review sub group Chairman) provided an update on the Committee's report on On-farm Feeding Practices.

Further information including copies of the presentations can be found here - <http://acaf.food.gov.uk/acafmeets/acaf-open-meeting-28-october-2015>

The next ACAF meeting is scheduled to take place in **Aviation House, London on 17 February 2016**.

General Advisory Committee on Science (**GACS**)

<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

GACS met on 1 October 2015. This was the first meeting for Professor Alan Boobis as a GACS member. Professor Boobis attends the GACS meetings as Chair of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemical in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment.

Items discussed at the meeting included:

- the regular FSA Science Report to the Committee
- crosscutting issues in Science in the Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs), which included a presentation by the Chair of the Committee on Mutagenicity, Dr David Lovell, on the work of his committee
- an update on FSA Science, Evidence and Information (SEI) Strategy 2015-2020 and its Delivery Plan
- a presentation on the UK Agri-Tech Strategy Skills Analysis by Professor Robert Webb
- a presentation on the FSA work on Data Science by Robin Linacre and
- an update on the Review of the SACs by Susan Pryde

Details of the GACS 16 meeting, including the agenda and the meeting papers, can be found on the GACS website at:

<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/gacs-meeting-1-october-2015>

The next GACS meeting will be held on 24 March 2016, details of which will be available on the GACS website.

Social Science Research Committee (**SSRC**)
<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk>.

The last Committee meeting of the SSRC was held on 28 September in Aviation House. At which, the following items were discussed:

- SACs Review
- SSRC horizon scanning outputs
- FSA SEI Strategy 2015-2020
- FSA Regulatory Strategy
- FSA Consumer Engagement
- FSA NI, FSA Wales and FSS update
- ACMSF update
- Sub-Groups, Working Groups and Advisory Groups updates

An SSRC horizon scanning workshop was held on 15 September 2015 in Aviation House. At this workshop, SSRC members were asked to respond to the following questions, which had been circulated to members in advance:

- Can you identify any emerging issues that might present a risk to the public?
 - Is there any information that needs to be brought to the FSA's attention to help consumers make choices based upon current evidence?
 - Are there any risks or opportunities associated with new food technologies?
 - Are there any risks or opportunities arising for consumers as a result of the changing landscape of food production?
 - Is there anything else to bring to the FSA's attention?
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- Outputs from the workshop are being prioritised and will be presented at the next Committee meeting on 15 April 2016.

Future:

- SSRC annual report is complete and should be published soon.
- SSRC has been preparing for the SACs Review, and the interim findings should be available soon for the SSRC to act upon.
- Preparation starts soon for recruitment and for the 17th SSRC meeting:

Secretariat
December 2015